

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DHA-02
OMB-01 EB-08 NSC-05 /074 W
-----110621 280835Z /10

P 280809Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5123
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
THE WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 07281

FROM AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION -- IMPORTANT SWISS NEWSPAPER
SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

1. WIDELY READ AND RESPECTED NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG OF ZURICH ON JULY 17/18 CARRIED VERY POSITIVE PAGE ONE ARTICLE ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER TITLE "BREZHNEV'S UNPLEASANT SUMMER." ARTICLE'S BASIC THRUST IS THAT PRESIDENT ALREADY HAS SUCCEEDED PSYCHOLOGICALLY IN TURNING AROUND THE GENERAL FEELING IN THE WEST THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED THE SOVIETS TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF US, AND ASSERTS THAT THE SOVIETS PSYCHOLOGICALLY HAVE BEEN FORCED ON THE DEFENSIVE.

2. I FIND THE ARTICLE ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING IN THAT IT PROVIDES WELCOME CHANGE TO SOME OF THE UNBALANCED PRESS COMMENT WE HAVE BEEN SEEING LATELY IN EUROPE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY, E.G., IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. A FORCEFUL AND CLEAR ANALYSIS, NOT UNUSUAL FOR THIS TOP EUROPEAN SWISS NEWSPAPER, THE NZZ
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ARTICLE IS HEARTENING IN THE SAME WAY AS WAS THE TIME OF LONDON EDITORIAL OF JULY 9 WHICH ALSO DESERVED SPECIAL NOTICE BECAUSE OF ITS FAVORABLE AND HELPFUL TONE.

3. EXCERPTS OF THE NZZ ARTICLE WERE SENT TO WASHINGTON IN USIS BONN'S JULY 18 DAILY PRESS REVIEW, BUT I TAKE LIBERTY OF REPEATING THEM HERE IN CASE THEY FAILED

RECEIVE NOTICE DUE TO MASS OF DAILY MATERIAL RECEIVED.
BEGIN EXCERPTS:

4. QUOTE: NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG (SUNDAY/MONDAY; ERICH METTLER): "...THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN THE NEW U.S. PRESIDENT WAS TESTED BY MOSCOW...TODAY THE WESTERN SUPER-POWER ACTS WITH EQUANIMITY AND TAKES THE INITIATIVE WHILE THE EASTERN POWER REACTS ANGRILY AND WITH NEVOUSNESS.

5. "THE U.S. HAS RECOVERED SURPRISINGLY QUICKLY FROM VIETNAM, WATERGATE AND THE RECESSION. ITS VERY EFFICIENT ECONOMY IS SOUND AND FLEXIBLE. BY RESTORING BASIC VALUES, CARTER HAS REVITALIZED THE NATION'S SENSE OF MORALITY IN A CONVINCING AND INTELLIGENT WAY...

6. "IN SALT, CARTER DISPLAYS A SELF-CONFIDENCE, FLEXIBILITY AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE WHICH THE SOVIETS CONSIDER ERRATIC. THEY PREFER KISSINGER'S CAUTION TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S PRESSURE FOR MORE RECIPROCITY. MOREOVER, CARTER ACCOMPAN-IES THE EXCHANGE OF PROPOSALS AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH DECISIONS WHICH IMPRESS THE OPPONENT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THUS HIS DECISION AGAINST THE B-1 BOMBER AND FOR CRUISE MISSILES, AS WELL AS HIS DECISION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB, ARE ALSO MOVES IN SALT DIPLOMACY.

7. "UNLIKE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, THE SOVIET ECONOMY IS
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HAMPERED BY THE SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVISM... BREZHNEV AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAD HOPED TO USE DETENTE FOR OVERTAKING THE WEST MILITARILY, UNDERMINING IT POLITICALLY, AND EXPLOITING IT ECONOMICALLY AND TECHNOLOGICALLY. THIS HOPE HAS NOT COME TRUE NOW THAT A NEW U.S. PRESIDENT 'MISINTERPRETS' THE HELSINKI ACT BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE FREE WORLD ALSO EXPORTS PRINCIPLES.

8. "...THE EROSION OF PUBLIC ORDER IN ITALY AND THE ATTEMPTS BY THE LEFT LABOR WING IN BRITAIN TO WEAKEN BRITAIN'S DEFENSE EFFORTS, WILL GRATIFY BREZHNEV. BUT IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN THINGS HAVE NOT DEVELOPED TO HIS LIKING. HIS VISIT IN PARIS HAS NOT MET HIS EXPECTATIONS. BONN-WASHINGTON FRICTION HAS BEEN ENDED...

9- "ALSO ON OTHER FRONTS OF ITS POLITICAL STRATEGY THE SOVIET UNION SEES CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN SUCCESS. HOW CAN ITS DIFFICULT CUBAN CLIENT EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM ANGOLA? ...HOW CAN IT EXPLAIN TO ENRAGED SOMALIANS WHY MOSCOW REARMS THEIR ETHIOPIAN ARCH ENEMY? IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THE KREMLIN. THINGS HAVE TAKEN A TURN EVEN IN INDIA. WHETHER

VIETNAM WILL PROVE A GAIN OR A LOSS FOR THE SOVIET UNION
REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN CHINA, MOSCOW CANNOT EXPECT MORE
FROM HUA THAN IT EXPECTED FROM MAO; AND WITH JAPAN NO
PROMISING RELATIONSHIP IS POSSIBLE AS LONG AS MOSCOW
REFUSES TO LOOSEN ITS GRIP ON FORMERLY JAPANESE-HELD
ISLANDS.

10. "IT ALMOST LOOKS AS IF, AFTER A LONG TIME, THE GLOBAL
BALANCE HAS CHANGED IN FAVOR OF THE WEST. AT LEAST IN THE
POLITICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL SPHERE. UNDER CARTER'S INFLUENCE
AT LEAST THE WEST'S BELIEF IN THE SUPERIORITY OF ITS OWN

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DHA-02 OMB-01 EB-08 /074 W

-----110514 280835Z /10

P 280809Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5124

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WAY OF LIFE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN
PRESSED ON THE DEFENSIVE IDEOLOGICALLY. MASSIVE NON-
IDEOLOGICAL ATTEMPTS AT CORRECTING THIS SITUATION WILL BE
MADE BY THEM SOONER OR LATER." UNQUOTE. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO07281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977077/aaaaafkw.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 71c2676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1898198
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040810
Subject: PRESS REACTION -- IMPORTANT SWISS NEWSPAPER SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY
TAGS: PFOR
To: SECSTATE WASHDC USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/71c2676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009